

Fremont Conservation Commission
04-06-09 Minutes



Fremont Conservation Commission
Minutes of April 6, 2009
Approved April 20, 2009

Present: Chairman John (Jack) Karcz, Members Janice O'Brien, Bill Knee and Pat deBeer and Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.
Member Tina Sturdivant joined the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Chrm. Karcz opened the meeting at 7:35 pm.

MINUTES

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to accept the minutes of the March 16, 2009 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

PRIME WETLANDS

Chrm. Karcz reported that the Commission has received a March 31, 2009 correspondence from Frank Richardson, Senior Wetlands Inspector with NH DES stating that *"based on review of the Town of Fremont Wetland Evaluation Report prepared by West Environmental, Inc. dated September 2007 and received together with additional supporting documentation on November 13, 2008, the NH DES Wetlands Bureau has determined that the Report and associate maps identifying 26 additional wetlands as designated Prime Wetlands is in compliance with Sections Env-Wt 702.01 and Env-Wt 702.02 of the NH DES Wetlands Bureau Code of Administrative rules and is hereby accepted per Rule Env-Wt 702.03."*

It was noted that Mark West can now submit the digital aerial photographs.

NATURAL RESOURCE PUBLICATION

At 7:30 pm Dave Kellam, Project Coordinator for PREP met with the Conservation Commission to talk about the process for the project of creating a Natural Resource Publication relative to wetland buffers. The first step is to organize the core group (or sub-committee) of three or four residents of the Town to lead the effort; step two is to have a meeting to define objectives for the piece. This can be face-to-face or over the phone in a conference call situation. He added that it takes about four months to go from the initial meeting to the final product and although it could take a little longer and it must be finished by December 31, 2009.

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Mr. Kellam related that the format of the buffer outreach piece depends on goals of the project and continuity with other Town / Conservation Commission documents. He said that it is helpful if within the membership of the committee there of someone with writing and/or editing skills as well as someone knowledgeable in natural resource management, nature photography and land use planning. PREP will design, print and mail the final publication. Mr. Kellam said that he will provide a format for the town website. He added that PREP will also design, print and distribute the piece which must include 50% wetland and riparian buffers content, including information on wetland ordinance, CSPA, Prime Wetlands, impervious surfaces and lawncare BMPs for wetland/riparian buffers. He said that ideally 50% of the first draft content will be written by someone from Fremont and information is included that promotes buffer protection. He said that the committee may want to think about working with the local Library and engage some speakers. Mr. Kellam said that the project sequence is; 1) content; 2) design 3) .pdf drafts.

Mr. Kellam said that PREP offers three format options; 1) standard trifold brochure; 2) expanded trifold pamphlet; 3) newspaper. He related that the newspaper format is the least costly and if a group wanted to do an insert it could be done with the newspaper format because it is more cost effective. The expanded pamphlet is the least cost effective as it cost the most and the brochure would be somewhere in between. The project is a maximum of \$3,000, but the most cost effective method of delivering the target message should be pursued. The choice of format is usually determined by the scope of information to be included. Mr. Kellam noted that all formats will be provided to the Town as a .pdf suitable for posting on the Town website. He stated that the goal of PREP is to deliver the most appropriate outreach material to communicate the Conservation Commissions wetland buffer values to the residents of Fremont. Samples of the format used by the Towns of Sandown, Brentwood, Hampton Falls and North Hampton for similar publications were distributed.

Mbr. deBeer asked how will we know when there is enough information. Mr. Kellam said that from a production point of view it needs to be kept at a reasonable size. Other discussions related to the topics of formats and resources. Mr. Kellam said he thought that Theresa Walker may be helping with the project.

Mr. Kellam said that the next step is for the Commission to send him an e-mail with a list of things to be addressed in the publication such as goals, objectives, and topics, as well as any maps and pictures that should be included. Mr. Kellam said they run a WIKI, which is a shared space on the web, to manage the content of the project. Mr. Kellam will send an e-mail regarding how to access the WIKI where people will begin to write and/or edit pieces of the topics of the publication. Mr. Kellam said he would include a photo page on the WIKI.

The Members thanked Mr. Kellam and he left the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Mbr. deBeer distributed spreadsheets to be used as worksheets for potential topics and included columns for subtopics, source, articles and comments. In answer to a question by Mr. Knee she said that her goal would be to inform people about the importance of wetland buffers, drinking water safety and how Fremont has exceeded the 10% impervious surface along the river corridor. She said that she

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is suggesting the subject of impervious surface as a separate topic from drinking water safety and wetland buffer importance.

Topics for the publication were discussed. It was noted that earlier suggestions included 1) Spruce Swamp including a map and information about the swamp; 2) the regional impact of land use along the Exeter River; 3) introductory to include the roll of the Conservation Commission and the projects completed including the designation of 26 prime wetlands. Open Space was also suggested.

Mbr. Knee said that the right trigger words need to be used. He offered a lot of information in pieces could be delivered in a format like a newspaper through well written articles, catchy titles, and reference sheets. The Members agreed that they did not want to go with the standard brochure. The merits and drawbacks of the newspaper and the expanded trifold pamphlet were discussed, but no decision was made.

The Members agreed that at the next meeting they will discuss formats and top 10 priorities for topics for the Natural Resource Publication.

TRAILS

There was a discussion relative to a recent suggestion to add trails to Glen Oakes and Mbr. O'Brien suggested that if there were new trails made they could be made in Oak Ridge. Chrm. Karcz said that he went to Oak Ridge recently and there is a possibility of adding more trails in the area behind from where the parking lot is in the direction of Beede Road.

Mbrs. O'Brien and Knee both said that they would not like to see more trails created in Glen Oakes. Mbr. deBeer said that she is not opposed to creating a few more trails. Mbr. Sturdivant agreed that if more trails were added they should be in the area of the power lines and the track that is closest to the Spruce Swamp, island and the prime moose habitat should be left alone. The Members generally agreed that trail extensions could be added to existing trails on the eastern section of Glen Oakes to complete loops, but that more discussion is needed prior to adding new trails. Mbr. Knee said that he would call in Fish and Game for habitat and wildlife analysis before thinking of adding trails.

GLEN OAKES

Mbr. deBeer submitted a table showing the Glen Oakes parcel, the access from Andreski Drive and a map of all the trails. There was a note on the table that stated "the largest number of trails can be accessed from the first log landing when entering the property from the Andreski Drive entrance."

Trail names were discussed and Mrs. Bolduc reported that Police Chief Janvrin has approved the following for trail names for the Glen Oakes trails as they are not so similar to existing street names that they would interfere with emergency response; Loop Trail, Forest Loop, Porcupine Den Trail, Woodland Trail, Trail to Nowhere, Homestead Trail and Island Trail.

Using Mbr. deBeer's table the Members agreed on the following:

Location	Trail name
Trail #1 = access from Andreski Drive	The Link
Trail #2 = mail Loop	Forest Loop Trail

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Trail #3 = trail to Brentwood Power Tools
Trail #4 = trail to Brentwood Rec Center and their trails
Trail #5 (A) = small loop (part 1)
Trail #5 (B) = remainder of #5
Trail #6 = footpath through the Pike lot to Copp Drive
Trail #7 = to Spruce Swamp Island

Woodland Trail
Barred Owl Trail
Homestead Loop Trail
Porcupine Den Trail
Hare Track Trail *or* Pikes Pass
Island Trail

ERLAC

Mbr. deBeer said that this years Vernal Pool workshop is scheduled for May 16, 2009 at the Cordes property on Beede Hill Road. She said that she related to ERLAC that the Conservation Commission would like to have the next one that is held in Fremont in an area of the Town Forest.

Mbr. deBeer reported that at the last ERLAC meeting the consultants of Bear Creek, who did the Fluvial Geomorphology study of parts of the Exeter River, did their final presentation for that study.

TREASURERS REPORT

The Commission received an account balance sheet from Town Treasurer Kimberly Dunbar for the date ending February 28, 2009. Accrued interest was shown in all accounts.

BUDGET

The Members reviewed the Conservation Commission 2009 default budget. Mrs. Bolduc explained that because the Town is operating on a default some budgets have been modified to offset necessary spending. It was noted that the Dues and Memberships line (#4610-008) in the Conservation Commission budget has been increased from \$250 to \$300 to cover an increase in the NH Association of Conservation Commission dues. The Members understood and agreed with the adjusted bottom line of \$3,322.

PROJECTOR BULB

Chrm. Karcz reported that a couple of weeks ago the Planning Board tried to use the projector following its use at School Meeting and found that it was out of order. Dell was contacted and thought it was the bulb and Chrm. Karcz authorized the purchase of a replacement bulb, the cost of which is invoiced at \$404.98. It was found, however, that the new bulb did not fix the problem and the projector was actually broken so Dell sent a new projector with a temporary bulb. There was a conversation relative to whether to keep the bulb for a spare or send it back. Mbr. Sturdivant questioned why it should be the responsibility of the Conservation Commission to replace the bulb. There was also a conversation relative to whoever uses the machine being responsible for any repairs if it breaks.

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to pay the \$404.98 invoice for the projector bulb from the Conservation Commission residual fund account. Motion seconded by Mbr. deBeer with unanimous favorable vote except for Mbr. Knee who voted no.

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Non-Public Meeting

At 9:53 pm Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to enter into non-public session, pursuant to NH RSA 91-A: 3 II (d), to discuss possible consideration of acquisition of real property.
Mbr. Sturdivant seconded the motion which was unanimously approved 5-0.

At 10:15 pm Mbr. O'Brien made the motion to return to public session.
The motion was seconded by Mbr. Sturdivant and unanimously approved 5-0.

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion that, pursuant to NH RSA 91-A: 3 III, in as much as divulgence of the information presented likely would affect adversely the action here enclosed and render it ineffective, the minutes of the non-public session held at tonight's meeting be sealed until such time as, in the opinion of a majority of the Members of the Fremont Conservation Commission, the aforesaid circumstances no longer apply.
The motion was seconded by Mbr. deBeer and unanimously approved 5-0.

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

1. Received: A July 20 – 31, 2009 multi-day UNH Water Ecology course brochure and registration form.

Mbrs. deBeer and Sturdivant spoke of the NH Fish and Game's new Connectivity Model of analysis of wildlife habitat. The purpose of the project is to identify wildlife connectivity zones in New Hampshire to inform conservation and planning. Mbr. deBeer said that she will e-mail the model to the Land Use Office to be forwarded to the Members for their review and information.

Mbr. Sturdivant made the motion to adjourn at 10:25 pm.
Motion seconded by Mbr. O'Brien with unanimous favorable vote.

Meredith Bolduc
Land Use AA/Recording Secretary